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FOREST SERVICE

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REPLY TO: 3430 Evaluations

December 18, 1979

SUBJECT: Forest Insect and Disease Evaluation

TO: Forest Supervisor, Modoc N.F.

Roney

On November 27, 1979, John Pierce, Mike Srago, and Gregg DeNitto examined mortality in mixed conifer stands near Ronnie Flats, Big Valley District. Bill Merrihew guided the trip, accompanied by district personnel, including John Monroe and Carl McMurtry.

Excessive tree mortality was observed in the stands. Most mortality consisted of white fir, however the overstory pine was also affected. Fir engraver beetles and Tetropium larvae were found in the green lower boles of dying fir. Western pine beetle infestations were present in the dead pines. Beetle activity (in the currently infested white fir) was not considered epidemic. No currently infested pines were examined. Diseases were not causing any problems.

District intentions, conveyed during the inspection, include salvage of dead and dying trees and silviculture treatments to improve stand vigor. Silvicultural treatments would include some overstory removal, thinning to regulate growing stock, and some planting on lightly stocked sites.

Tree mortality is being encouraged by poor growth arising from adverse weather and site factors. We support the plans for the salvage and stand improvement cuttings and believe this will help to reduce mortality by promoting tree vigor.

WILFRED L. FREEMAN, JR.

WILFRED L. FREEMAN, JR., Director
Forest Insect and Disease Management

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